

SKEPTICS ONLY ON VIRGIN BIRTH

Three Union Graduates Had Open Minds on Subject, Says Preacher.

DR. WATSON EXPLAINS TO OHIO CLERGYMEN

Admits There Are a Few Radicals in New York, but Defends Presbytery's Loyalty.

New York Presbyterians were inclined to the belief yesterday that the action of the Cincinnati Presbytery in demanding the expulsion of the New York Presbytery because of the admission of three "radical" members was hasty and that the matter would be smoothed over amicably in due time.

The first step in the smoothing over process was taken last night when Dr. Robert Watson, of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, wrote a scathing letter to the Rev. Frank Stevenson, of the Church of the Covenant, Cincinnati. In it he explained that the reported radical views of the three young ministers had been grossly misrepresented in the newspapers.

"None of the three said he believed in any of the miracles," said Dr. Watson last night, "but merely that the miracles were not all of the same character, and the young men had not setted out all the details in their minds."

A New Whale Story.

"As for Jonah and the whale, I am not aware that the question came up in the examination of these three candidates at all. As for believing in Jonah, I was talking to a man last week who said he himself had been inside a whale. His whale, of course, was dead. My friend was not a clergyman. His business in the whale was mere curiosity."

"I do not know what will result from the action of the Cincinnati Presbytery. Their resolution will undoubtedly come before the General Assembly at Atlantic City on May 18 and be referred to a committee for action. The nation is absolutely unprecedented. A New York Presbytery has been criticised before this for holding radical views, but never before has a definite demand been made for ousting

Dr. Watson's letter reads:

I began over the telephone last night about the action of Cincinnati Presbytery and had a report of it in this morning's paper. According to this report, you were very much surprised at the action. I wish you had thought to write and give me what I could have given you the exact information as regard to the young men. I am sure that the statement in the daily papers was a gross misrepresentation of the beliefs of these young men. I am sure that you would have voted with us in the General Assembly to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pittsburgh Clergy Would Discipline N.Y. Presbytery

(By Telegram to The Tribune)

Pittsburgh, April 18.—Presbyterian ministers here are divided in sentiment regarding the action taken by the Cincinnati Presbytery. Some local Presbyterians said they did not believe the assembly would take any drastic action. The Rev. Alexander MacCall, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, said: "I am sorry that questions which divided the church should be raised when the challenge is coming to us to show a united front in the face of the world's great need."

Philadelphia Presbyterians

Divided in Opinions

(By Telegraph to The Tribune)

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